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A number of the villages are wholly dependent upon one or several large non-resident land-owners, who own much of the agricultural lands farmed by the villagers. In these cases, the mukhtar acts only after consultation with these large landowners. 491 622

The mukhtar and the board of aldermen are elected for a period of four years. In case of the death or resignation of the mukhtar, the administrative officer of the Saida district (the qaimmaqam) is authorized to appoint one of the aldermen to fill the vacant position. A new election must be held within two months after the vacancy occurs. 622 623

The powers and obligations of the mukhtar include: acting as the representative of the government in the village; registering the newly born and deceased; apportioning the land tax among the holders of land; and, where land registration has not been completed, issuing certificates showing title to land for purposes of sale or mortgage. It is interesting to note, in conformance with Lebanese law, that when the police come to arrest a villager they are not permitted to enter a house unless accompanied by the mukhtar. 622 694

Table I has been prepared for the convenience of technicians working in the area. It shows the names of the mukhtars in the five affected villages as of September, 1952, and the number of persons on the board of aldermen. 622 623

These small villages have an income from taxes or property. What improvements the villagers desire must be achieved through mutual cooperation. This cooperation is reflected in their sharing the village threshing floor (*baidar*). In answer to the question, "What improvements have been financed either in cash or in kind) by your village during the past five years?" none was reported. In the control area, the villagers in El-Ghaziyah and El-'Addousiyah contributed the maintenance of school buildings, and in En-Nejariyah voluntary village labor helped to build a new road from the *darib* to the Saida-Beirut highway. 496

Where there are over two thousand inhabitants and a village income of over L.L. 2,000 annual income, a municipality can be formed. The municipality takes care of locally financed projects such as street construction, water supply works, lighting, sanitation and sponsorship of public schools. Only in the control village of El-Ghaziyah does a municipality operate. As none of the five villages under discussion has the legal minimum of two thousand population, there are no municipalities in the demonstration area. 632